

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
February 11, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Fleck, Mr. Klimek, Mrs. Tracey, Mr. Szabo, Mr. Nystrom, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Branagan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Emmetts, Ms. Ramberg

Mrs. Wunder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the statement that this meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Stillwater Township Environmental Commission. Regular meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the Stillwater Township Municipal Building located in Middleville, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

The following members were reappointed and sworn in by the Municipal Clerk prior to this meeting:

Mr. Branagan; Mr. Nystrom

Committeewoman Chamings will be the Committee liaison for 2013.

Mr. Klimek indicated Mr. Branagan would be arriving late.

**Appointment of Chairperson:** This item was tabled until Mr. Branagan was present at the meeting.

**Appointment of Vice-Chairperson:** This item was tabled until Mr. Branagan was present at the meeting.

**Secretary:** Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to appoint Kathy Wunder as the Secretary for 2013, seconded by Mrs. Fleck.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes

**2013 Meeting Dates and Official Newspaper:** Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to designate the Daily New Jersey Herald and Sunday Herald as the official newspapers for legal publication for the Environmental Advisory Commission, and to accept the following meeting dates for 2013, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby:

February 11, 2013 Reorganization/Regular	August 12, 2013
March 11, 2013	September 9, 2013
April 8, 2013	October 17, 2013 (Third Thursday)
May 13, 2013	November 14, 2013 (Second Thursday)
June 10, 2013	December 9, 2013
July 8, 2013	January 13, 2014 Reorganization/Regular

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes

Mr. Nystrom arrived at 7:11 p.m.

**Minutes**

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of December 11, 2012, seconded by Ms. Kathy Fobes-Jacoby.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, abstain, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, abstain

**Bills**

Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Szabo:

Secretary:	\$180.25
QC Labs:	\$1318.00
The Printing Center:	\$305.00
ANJEC Membership:	\$365.00
NJH Notice:	\$ 14.40
NJH Notice:	\$ 7.50

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.**

**Correspondence:**

17th Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally

**Sustainable Jersey Presentation:** Randall Solomon, Co-Director of Sustainable Jersey at the Sustainable Institute at the College of New Jersey

Mr. Solomon provided a presentation on Sustainable Jersey, including a public forum with an open question and answer period throughout. Members participating from the public included: Art Ondish, League of Municipalities; Mitch Morrison, Green Team, Sparta Township; Wendy Blanchard; Ian Blanchard; Amy Schwartz; Committeewoman Anita Straway; Mayor Charles Gross and Matt Polsky, Green Team, Belvidere/Cranford.

\*(Power Point presentation attached to minutes)

Mr. Branagan arrived at 7:24 pm.

There are currently 378 out of 566 municipalities participating in the program with two categories of certification, bronze and silver, based on a point system of actions. He briefly reviewed the actions and provided a handout. He discussed public vs. private funding; noting public funding became involved when a group at the league approached the state to form a partnership. The breakdown of funding is: 1/3 – State; 1/3 – foundations; 1/3 corporations.

At this point the meeting was opened for public participation at 7:27 p.m.

In response to questioning, Mr. Solomon indicated \Sparta Township is the only municipality in Sussex County that is currently certified, noting larger municipalities have access to more resources. Mitch Morrison, Sparta Green Team member, reviewed the actions taken by Sparta Township, including an energy audit, solar power on three buildings, a farmer's market, green fair, Sparta Mountain Day, and three community gardens. Community involvement should start small, with neighbors and friends, someone with a passion for something, starting with one item and adding to that as it progresses. Art. Ondish, League of Municipalities, stated as a mayor he appointed members to a Green Team, involving the school, Town Engineer, and students, and it also helps to have elected officials involved. Mr. Solomon suggested contacting other Green Teams asking for a representative to provide guidance through the process. The Sustainable Jersey website is also a wealth of information regarding communities involved, with contact information and access to documentation provided for certification. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby discussed the items Stillwater currently has in place, including an energy audit, NRI in progress, and Open Space Map. Mr. Gross expressed concern with having only two full-time employees in the township and the work that may be incurred as a result of the certification process. Amy Schwartz felt the municipal information needs to come from the township, but the majority of the work can be done by outside volunteers. Mr. Ondish recommended having a single point of contact person. Wendy Blanchard inquired if funding is available for a liaison to the town hall and Mr. Solomon indicated funding is offered for support. Mrs. Blanchard suggested gathering at the Recycling Center for those interested in the program, providing brochures and flyers to educate the public. Mr. Szabo expressed concern with the relationship between Agenda 21 and Sustainable Jersey, property rights being a major issue. After further discussion, Mr. Ondish and Mr. Solomon had no issue with providing a written statement indicating there is no relationship between the two and would do so. Mrs. Fleck expressed concern with corporate donations and how much influence corporations have over the program. Mr. Solomon indicated corporate donations are made for philanthropy and public relations, with no influence over the grant program or actions. In response to further questioning, Mr. Solomon stated the township can choose to drop out of the process at any point or just stop the pursuit of certification. There is no fee to join and no penalty to withdraw. Time periods for actions and the expiration of such were discussed, with Mr. Solomon indicating if an action is still effective it is worth points. At this point, Matt Polsky, Belvidere and Cranford Green Team member, provided a handout entitled, "The Agenda 21 Controversy and Your Town." A fact-based toolkit for town leaders and concerned citizens. The handout was completed by the North Jersey Public Policy Network in response to concerns. Mr. Polsky has been participating in sustainability in New Jersey for many years, speaking about several aspects of sustainability. At this point, the public forum and presentation concluded and the meeting was closed to the public at 8:34 p.m.

**Appointment of Chairperson:**

Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to appoint Mr. Branagan as Chairperson for 2013, seconded by Mr. Szabo; there being no other nominations, nominations were closed and roll call was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan.

At this point, the meeting was turned over to Chairperson Branagan.

**Appointment of Vice-Chairperson:**

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to appoint Mr. Klimek as Vice-Chairperson for 2013, seconded by Mr. Branagan; there being no other nominations, nominations were closed and roll call was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan

### **Old Business**

#### **Municipal Orchard Update:**

**Ian Blanchard, 908 Wall Street**, reported he is excited to proceed with the project and would like to lease municipal or state property. He spoke on an official sponsorship or possibly an LLC, and he is currently researching the best way to proceed. Mr. Blanchard would like the orchard to function as an educational facility. He spoke on profit vs. nonprofit and stated the next step is to look into forming a Board of Trustees and Advisory Council and will advertise over the next few months. The ideal property for the orchard would be the State-owned land located across from Swartswood State Park, which has an existing barn and restrooms on site.

#### **No Littering Signs:**

Mr. Branagan reported that Ms. Chamings had spoken with County Administrator John Eskilson regarding the placement of signs on existing County posts. Mr. Branagan would follow-up with Mr. Eskilson on the matter.

#### **Tree Cutting Ordinance:**

Mr. Branagan reported the Zoning Officer is currently reviewing the proposed ordinance. Mr. Klimek noted a definition should be included for "clear cutting."

#### **Water Testing Results:**

The stream water testing results were distributed to the EC for their review and Mr. Szabo would forward a copy to Ernie Hofer for his input.

**Gas Fracking:** Mr. Szabo provided an information packet entitled, "Natural Gas Development," January 2013. The packet will be emailed to EC members by Mrs. Wunder. The Stillwater Taxpayer's Association recently hosted a guest speaker who provided a presentation on the fracking issue.

### **New Business**

#### **Fishing Line Receptacles:**

Mr. Branagan proposed placing receptacles for the deposit of fishing line at most fishing areas in Stillwater. He would make the receptacles and Mr. Szabo agreed to help and also suggested placing one at each tag return box.

**Amphibian Crossing Study:** Mr. Branagan reported the amphibian crossing study would be held during March and he invited those interested to participate. The study would be held on Route 619 across from the entrance to Swartswood State Park.

#### **Open Space Brochure:**

Mr. Branagan has been in contact with Assistant Principal Dan Cullen at Stillwater School regarding the distribution of the brochure. Once approval is granted Ms. Wunder will provide the brochures to each class.

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 9:09 p.m.**

**Ian Blanchard, 908 Wall Street** asked for an update on the PSE&G power line project. Ms. Chamings explained the project was approved over existing right of ways. Flags have been erected and it is expected to begin in Stillwater in August or September. There is a Supreme Court motion pending regarding the 20 mile radius around the Delaware Water Gap, which would include Stillwater.

**There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 9:12 p.m.**

**Planning Board Liaison Report:** The January meeting was cancelled.

#### **Township Liaison Report:**

Ms. Chamings reported the Municipal Building renovation plans are being reviewed. She spoke about the meeting room needs and the possibility of them being addressed under Sustainable Jersey, and she briefly spoke about the energy audit.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Wunder, Secretary

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Jack Branagan, Chairperson

**Next Meeting:** March 11, 2013